

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 200921Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4535
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T JAKARTA 6684

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR ID SN US

SUBJ: FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA

REF: (A) STATE 118980 (DTG 141603Z MAY 76), (B) STATE 120513
(DTG 152016Z MAY 76), (C) KUALA LUMPUR 2837 (DTG
180945Z MAY 76)

1. WE THINK TRANSFER OF DIEGO GARCIA SUPPORT AND P-3
FLIGHTS TO SINGAPORE WILL STIR MIXED, BUT PREVAILINGLY
NEGATIVE, FEELINGS WITHIN GOI. WITHIN MILITARY, THERE MAY
BE SOME WHO WILL PRIVATELY WELCOME INDICATION THAT US WILL
BE CONTINUING TO KEEP AN EYE ON SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN
INDIAN OCEAN. HOWEVER, THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE CONCERN THAT
MOVE WILL COMPROMISE ASEAN NON-ALIGNMENT AND HAMPER EFFORTS
TO MODERATE HANOI'S HOSTILITY TO ASEAN. ALSO, WHILE INDO-
NESIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SOUTHEAST
ASIA ZONE OF PEACE FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY, GOI HAS CON-
SISTENTLY ADVOCATED REDUCTION OF GREAT POWER MILITARY
PRESENCE WITHIN REGION AND IS ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING INDIAN
OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE AND EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATIONS
OF EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES.

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2. WE CAN THEREFORE NOT EXPECT ANY PUBLIC INDICATION OF

APPROVAL OR ACQUIESCENCE FROM GOI. AT SAME TIME WE THIN GOI OUT OF DEFERENCE TO ASEAN SOLIDARITY WOULD PROBABLY SEEK AVOID HAVING TO EXPRESS ANY PUBLIC CRITICISM IF SINGAPORE AGREES TO OUR PROPOSAL. IF MOVE ATTRACTS CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS HEAVY PROPAGANDA BARRAGE FROM MAJOR COUNTRIES IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA, GOI MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO EXPRESS SOME PUBLIC RESERVATIONS. LIKEWISE, IF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY ON MATTER DEVELOPS IN MALAYSIA, GOI MIGHT SECOND ANY CRITICAL STATMENTS MADE BY GOM. OFF-THE-CUFF CRITICAL JIBE BY FONMIN MALIK CAN, OF COURSE, NEVER BE COMPLETELY RULED OUT. IF SINGAPORE CONSULTS INDONESIANS PRIOR TO DECISION EITHER BILATERALLY OR IN ASEAN, GOI MIGHT WELL EXPRESS MISGIVINGS BUT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE POSITION THAT DECISION IS ONE FOR GOS TO MAKE.

3. IN VIEW FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED PARA 1, WE THINK IT UNLIKELY GOI WOULD APPROVE OVERFLIGHTS FOR REGULAR SUPPORT OPERATIONS FLIGHTS TO DIEGO GARCIA. THERE IS SLIGHTLY BETTER CHANCE THEY MIGHT GIVE APPROVAL TO OCCASIONAL OVERFLIGHTS TO DIEGO GARCIA ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

4. NOTE: PARA 3 B REF A UNCLEAR AS IT PERTAINS TO JAKARTA WHICH WOULD NOT REQUIRE TWO FLIGHTS PER WEEK AND CANNOT HANDLE C-5.
NEWSOM

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